

Hallelujah Anyway, Part 10

Pastor Steve Berger June 7, 2015

Hallelujah Anyway

...having a faith that no matter what happens in your life, you continue to trust and praise God, knowing that God, and no circumstance, has the final word over you!

- Paul demonstrates this mindset from prison
- exhorts all believers to adopt the same mentality for own life circumstances

Obedience, Abandonment, Rejoicing

- **foundational traits for every follower of Jesus**

Philippians 2:12-18

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. Do all things without complaining and disputing, that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

Paul commends their obedience; continue to work out your own salvation

- NOT — work FOR your salvation — Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
- NOT — work out OTHERS’ salvation
 - Peter to Jesus, “what about him?” — Jesus to Peter, “what is that to you, you follow Me.”

We are to continue to work out our own salvation...
“work to completion as harvesting as much as possible from a bountiful field.”
Work in order to get as much of Jesus’ life and character
as you possibly can in every circumstance of life!
THAT’S THE OBEDIENCE PAUL IS TALKING ABOUT!

Quick observations about obedience

- humility paves the way for obedience — “Therefore” Jesus/Bondservant attitude
- pride questions the way of obedience — “Who is the Lord that I should obey Him?”
- obedience brings blessing — birthing and forming of Israel, foundational truth for God’s people
- disobedience brings God’s correction

Deuteronomy 28:1-13

“Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God: Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country. Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out. “The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they

shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways. The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you. The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways. Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you. And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.

Obedience brings God's blessing, not just an Old Testament example...

- John 14:15-16 — Jesus said, “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever...”

**Obedience is tied to truly experiencing the Helper,
the Holy Spirit's presence and activity in your life.**

- Acts 5:32 — Jesus said, “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

**Where there is unrepentant, ongoing disobedience,
there will be a grieving and quenching of the Holy Spirit in your life.
Grieving is DOING something you shouldn't.
Quenching is NOT DOING something you should.
DISOBEDIENCE limits Spirit!**

- John 14:21 — Jesus said, “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

**Obedience brings greater manifestation and revelation of Jesus in your life!
That alone is enough reason to obey.
God adds a load of other blessings besides!**

Observation — *too many are disobedience/forgiveness-minded than obedience/blessing-minded! "I'll just disobey and get forgiven."*

Bottom Line — *obey God, work out your own salvation, be blessed, know Jesus deeper, and experience the Holy Spirit greater!*

Great News — *work out your own salvation, for it is God who works in you both to will and do according to His good pleasure. Awesome, amazing, gracious, kind.*

We can work out our own salvation because God is working in us to obey Him!

Working in us — *“energeo,” God's energy and power in us, to assist us. We're not called to obey and then left to ourselves, God's energy in us empowers us to obey.*

Scenario — *the opportunity to obey, too much for us on our own, trust and co-operate with God's power in us, we step out in obedience, salvation gets worked out of us, we grow that much more, conformed into Christ's image. Obedience is about co-operation!*

Where do you need to obey God and work something out, while He's working in you?

Attitude in obedience

- vs. 12 — with fear and trembling — awe and sobriety, serious issue
 - remember Who is asking (loving father)
 - remember what His motive is (blessing, transformation)
 - remember what's at stake (knowing and experiencing Him more or wallowing in disobedience)
- vs. 14 — without complaining and disputing — obedience is about the heart
 - right thing with wrong attitude doesn't get desired response from God

Result of obedience

- vs. 15 — blameless, harmless, faultless children in midst of crooked and perverse generation
 - it's possible to obey God in perverse world!
- vs. 15 — shine as lights, lighting and leading the way for those in darkness!

Key to obedience

- vs. 16 — holding fast the word of life — not moving off of what God says
 - doing what God says no matter what the backslidden church or a reprobate world says
 - God's word is life, world's word is death, there is nowhere else to go for the follower of Jesus!
 - The minute we forsake God's word, we forsake obedience!

God has called all followers of Jesus to live obedient lives!

Abandonment

- vs. 17 - poured out as drink offering on sacrifice and service of your faith

***Important...** Paul has abandoned his rights to his life in order to have it poured out sacrificially so others could grow in their faith.*

God has called all followers of Jesus to a life of sacrificial abandonment!

- Matthew 16:24-25 — Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”

Rejoicing

- vs. 16-18 — Paul rejoices
 - in the Philippians' growth, that his labor for them wasn't for nothing, they were obeying, growing in the Lord, brought him reason to rejoice
 - in the Day of Christ, Paul understood that when he stands before Jesus and sees what his obedience and sacrificial abandonment produced, it will all be worth it!

IMPORTANT

Paul looked past temporary cost to eternal reward. He rejoiced while obeying Jesus and sacrificially abandoning his life for others —let's join him!

Discussion Questions

1. Paul commends the Philippians that they have continued to “work out your own salvation.” What did he mean?
2. Jesus told Peter to be concerned about his own spiritual relationship, and not to be concerned about John’s. Does this impact any of your current relationships? [This is not speaking of salvation.]
3. For the past two weeks we’ve studied “pride” and “humility.” Are the following statements true? “Humility paves the way for obedience.” “Pride questions the way of obedience.”
4. Read Deuteronomy 28:1-13 silently. How many times does it mention blessings or words related to blessings?
5. In those same verses, what are the conditions the people must meet to receive the blessings?
6. In John 14:15-16, when did Jesus say He would give us another Helper (the Holy Spirit)?
7. What is the difference between Grieving the Holy Spirit and Quenching the Holy Spirit?
8. What is your attitude toward God when you think of the ways He wants you to be obedient?
9. In your own life, where do you need to obey God and work something out, while He’s working in you?
10. Is it possible for us to obey God in the middle of our crooked and perverse world? How are we tempted to disobey?
11. How is this scenario playing out in your life right now? —“God doesn’t care about your comfort — He cares about your being conformed into the image of Jesus.”

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We pray for requests for one month, and at our weekly prayer meetings.
Please come join our House of Prayer,
Tuesday, June 9th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.